



DUTY TO REPORT

Section 72 (1) of the Child and Family Services Act requires any person who has reasonable grounds to suspect that a child is being abused or is at risk of abuse, to promptly report the suspicion to a children's aid society.

**Riverside County
Child Support Services
Child Abuse Hotline**

1-800-442-4918
dpss.co.riverside.ca.us

**Riverside County
Victim/Witness Services**

955-5450
www.rivcoda.org/VS/home.html

Riverside Police Services
To report a crime:

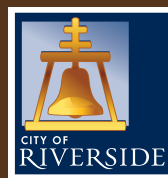
**EMERGENCY ONLY
CALL 911**

**Non-emergency
354-2007**

more information online at:
rpdonline.org



SERGIO G. DIAZ
CHIEF OF POLICE



City of Arts & Innovation

Child Abuse



Integrity Service Excellence



***Riverside Police Department
and City residents working
together to prevent crime***

www.RPOnline.org

WHAT IS CHILD ABUSE?

Child abuse is legally defined as:

- A physical injury which is inflicted by other than accidental means on a child by another person
- Sexual abuse, including both sexual assault and sexual exploitation
- Willful cruelty or unjustifiable punishment of a child
- Cruel or inhuman corporal punishment or injury

TYPES OF CHILD ABUSE

- Physical
- Emotional
- Sexual
- Neglect

PHYSICAL ABUSE

A parent/caregiver's actions result in:

- Bruises
- Burns
- Marks from hands or other objects
- Human bites
- Fractures



SEXUAL ABUSE

Indicators of sexual abuse:

- Child reports sexual activities to a trusted person
- Detailed and age-inappropriate understanding of sexual behavior (especially by younger children)
- Child wears torn, stained or bloody underclothing
- Child is victim of other forms of abuse

NEGLECT

A parent/caregiver who does not provide the proper:

- Food and clothing
- Housing
- Supervision
- Safe surroundings
- Personal health care
- Medical health care
- Education



80% of abusers are known to their child victims



WHAT TO DO IF A CHILD DISCLOSES ABUSE

● Believe the child

Acknowledge what the child tells you no matter how difficult it may be to accept the identity of the abuser or that abuse has occurred.

● Listen openly and calmly

It is important to put your own feelings of shock, anger, frustration or pain aside.

● Reassure the child

Be supportive of the child. Let him/her know you will do something to help. Let the child know that it is not his/her fault and they are doing the right thing by telling you.

● Write down the facts

Record as soon as possible what the child has told you. Use the child's own words and avoid asking questions. Write down everything about the disclosure, no matter how insignificant. This is important for an investigation.

● Report the disclosure

Every person has a duty to report child abuse or risk of child abuse. As soon as possible after the disclosure, contact the police or a children's aid agency.